

### Photographers and Videographers

- Photographers and videographers are asked to check with the presider or Wedding Coordinator before the ceremony.
- They will be asked to respect the sacredness of the place and of the liturgy, and to avoid distracting the wedding party and guests.
- They are not permitted in the sanctuary or near the altar during the wedding liturgy.

### Wedding Ceremony Booklets

- Wedding ceremony booklets are not mandatory but do help your guests to participate more fully in the ceremony.
- Allow sufficient time to compose your booklet. They can be printed professionally or done on a home computer.
- Booklet covers can be obtained through religious supply stores.
- Please call Kathy Hasty at (248.693.0440) if you would like to see sample copies.

### Wedding Prep Checklist

- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm date with priest or deacon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule appointments with priest or deacon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain Baptismal Certificates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule PMI Inventory and results
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend Marriage Preparation seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule meetings with sponsor couple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with Music Minister
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Wedding Intake Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan ceremony with priest or deacon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain Marriage License (good for 33 days)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule rehearsal with parish secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare wedding ceremony booklets (optional)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Appropriate fees and stipends

May your wedding day be a beautiful beginning to your marriage – the beginning of living the Sacrament of Matrimony. May you be to one another a living sign of God's love, and together, a visible expression of God's love in the world! God bless you!

– The St. Joseph Parish Community



# St. Joseph Catholic Church

LAKE ORION, MICHIGAN



## Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations as you begin the formal process of celebrating your marriage at St. Joseph Church! The ministries of the parish are here to assist you as you plan a beautiful wedding. More importantly, we wish to help you as you embark on the journey of Christian Marriage and the lifetime covenant of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Simply put, there are four components of marriage preparation here at St. Joseph Church:

1. Attendance at an approved marriage preparation seminar.
2. Discussion of the Pre-Marriage Inventory (PMI) with the priest or deacon who is performing your ceremony
3. Meeting three times with a married "sponsor couple" assigned to you
4. Planning the ceremony

In this booklet you will find detailed information that will be helpful to you in planning for your wedding celebration.



## Marriage Preparation

- Meet with the deacon or priest who will preside at your wedding **at least six months** prior to the desired wedding date to confirm availability and book the date for the wedding. Do not book your hall, caterer, musicians, etc. until you have solidified this date.
- Schedule a time to complete and assess the Pre-Marriage Inventory with your presider.
- Attend an approved local marriage preparation seminar (see wedding folder).
- Meet 3 times with your assigned “sponsor couple” once they contact you.
- Using your “Together for Life” booklet, complete the Wedding Intake Form. (Contact Sue Audette at [saudette@stjosephlakeorion.org](mailto:saudette@stjosephlakeorion.org) for an electronic copy.)
- Meet with the presiding priest or deacon to review wedding ceremony choices.
- **Any change of date must be approved by your presider. Should you need to cancel the wedding, be sure to call your presider.**
- Children in the wedding party should be 4 years of age or older unless you have special permission from the presider.

## Music

- Contact the Music Director, Leszek Bartkiewicz, at 248.693.0440 ext. 204, well in advance of your date, to discuss your wedding music, fees, etc.
- The stipend for the Music Director (\$150) should be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal.

## Documents

- Each of you must arrange to obtain a recent copy (dated within 6 months of the wedding) of your baptismal record from your respective places of baptism.
- Arrange to obtain your marriage license by contacting the Oakland County clerk’s office ([www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com) or 248.858.0571). The cost is \$20, payable by cash or charge. Generally there is a three-day waiting period and the license is good for 33 days after it is issued. You’ll each need to bring a birth certificate and driver’s license when you apply for a license.
- Bring your marriage license to the church office **one week prior to the wedding** so that it can be properly filled out.



## Church Preparation

- Runners are NOT permitted (for safety reasons).
- Flowers are permitted but may not be placed on the altar table top. Pew decorations may be attached with rubber bands or ribbon; NO tape.
- Rice, confetti, birdseed, bubbles and balloons are NOT permitted on the church campus.
- Food and drinks other than water (no alcohol please) are NOT permitted in the church.

## Fees and Offerings

- We suggest an offering of \$300 for use of the church, but this is at your discretion. Please consider this gift within the context of your other wedding expenses. It can be given to your presider at any time, or to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal.
- A stipend for the Wedding Coordinator (\$40) is to be paid **at the rehearsal**.
- You may give your presider an appreciation gift as well.

## Your Wedding Rehearsal

- **Call the parish office one month prior to your wedding to schedule the rehearsal.**
- **Please be on time for your rehearsal.** It will begin at the scheduled time, even if all wedding party members are not present. Your Wedding Coordinator will rehearse you and assist you on your wedding day. Contact the Parish Office at 248.693.0440 for the coordinator’s name/phone number if you have any questions.

## Your Wedding Day

- The entire wedding party should be at the church **one hour before the ceremony begins**.
- A bridal room and restroom are located near the gathering area, where the bride and her attendants may gather before the wedding.
- Attire should be appropriate for church. For dresses that are low-cut or revealing, we ask that modesty be observed and a shawl or jacket worn.
- The groom and best man may use the clergy vesting room.
- **Receiving lines should be held at the reception, not at the church.**
- Photos may be taken for one half-hour following your wedding.
- All boxes, wrapping, flower stands, etc. must be removed from the church afterward.
- Please assign someone to clean up after your event and leave the church as you found it.
- Limousines should be directed around the back of the church near the wide steps.